

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended)

A cigar-cutter device comprising a pair of blades, said blades being superposed, and each blade being movable in pivoting about an axis and including handle and drive means and a sharp edge, said sharp edge presenting an inside face co-operating in a cutting plane with the inside face of the cutting edge of the other blade, said device further comprising means for connecting together said two superposed blades, comprising at least one connection element located at said pivot axis, at least one plate including an orifice that is symmetrical about a middle axis and that is preferably circular, being suitable for receiving a cigar, said plate being secured to the two blades at least via their said pivot axis (or axes), and said plate being disposed against the outside face of one of said blades;

Wherein said sharp edge presenting respective leading profiles that are concave and symmetrical to each other about said middle axis, said profiles preferably being substantially semicircular; and

wherein the device including further comprises mechanical coupling means for coupling pivoting of the two blades about their said respective pivot axes, said mechanical coupling means comprising at least two toothed portions directly secured respectively to each of said blades, and co-operating by meshing in such a manner as to enable said blades to move simultaneously and symmetrically about a said middle axis, ~~said sharp edges presenting respective leading profiles that are concave and symmetrical to each other about said axis, said profiles preferably being substantially semicircular.~~

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended)

A device according to claim 12~~13~~, having two of said plates placed respectively against each of said outside faces of each of said blades, said two orifices being identical and place in register with each other.

15. (Previously Presented)

A device according to claim 12, wherein each said toothed portion is inscribed in a circular envelope centered on said pivot axis (or axes) of said blades.

16. (Withdrawn)

A device according to claim 15, wherein said two blades have a common said pivot axis, and one of said blades has a said toothed portion that is convex, and the other of said blades has a toothed portion that is concave, with a pitch circle diameter greater than that of said convex toothed portion, and wherein said device includes two gearwheels that are secured to each other and superposed, sharing a common axis of rotation, preferably where appropriate secured to said plate, a first gearwheel meshing with said convex toothed portion and a second gearwheel meshing with said concave toothed portion.

17. (Previously Presented)

A device according to claim 12, wherein said two blades have respective distinct ones of said pivot axes, and each blade includes a said toothed portion that is convex meshing directly with the identical toothed portion of the other blade.

18. (Previously Presented)

A device according to claim 12, wherein said sharp edge of a said blade is situation between said pivot axis and said

drive means thereof, said drive means preferably including an orifice suitable for receiving at least one digit.

19. (Previously Presented)

A device according to claim 12, wherein said connection means further comprise resilient connection means between said two blades.

20. (Previously Presented)

A device according to claim 19, wherein said resilient means comprise a compression or torsion spring holding said blades in an open position when the device is at rest, and said device further includes temporary closure means preventing relative displacement of the two blades when said device is at rest, preferably means for holding said blades in a close-together position.

21. (Previously Presented)

A device according to claim 12, including abutment guide means enabling the relative displacement of each blade to be limited, preferably comprising at least one slider suitable for moving in at least one slideway that is preferably circular, said slider being secured to at least one of said

blades or said plate, and said slideway being provided in the other one of said blades or where appropriate in said plate.

22. (Previously Presented)

A method of cutting a cigar using a device according to claim 12, in which said two sharp edges are spaced apart and a cigar is inserted between said two edges, preferably inside an orifice provided in one of said plates, and then said edges are moved towards each other by imparting said simultaneous and symmetrical relative displacement so as to cut the cigar, preferably with the help of said drive means.